

help migrants schedule their crossing times—schedule their crossing times. That is barely a bandaid for the massive gash that is our southern border.

But while the President ignores this humanitarian crisis, my colleagues and I want to fix it. We can address the disaster at the border by providing our dedicated Border Patrol agents with more resources and more time to process migrants, equipping them to do their jobs thoroughly. We need to put up barriers against sex trafficking and drug trafficking by ending catch-and-release and imposing penalties on those who skip out on their immigration hearings.

President Biden called on us as a nation last week to embrace civility over chaos. He should take his own advice and help us to stabilize the chaos at the border. The administration must finally open its eyes to this border crisis, and the Senate must implement real, lasting solutions for the sake of migrants, for the sake of legal immigrants, and for the sake of American citizens.

As I have said before, we are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. Failure to enforce them doesn't help anyone. Well, it doesn't help anyone except predators looking for a chance to manipulate the chaos. Security will benefit those on both sides of our border.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### REMEMBERING SERVICE DOG KAYA

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, as some of my colleagues may know, we recently lost Kaya, a very special service dog that was a frequent visitor to the Senate.

Kaya's life was devoted to helping veterans with PTSD, and she quickly became an ambassador for veterans and service dogs everywhere.

A few years ago, I ran into Kaya and her owner, Cole. Actually, I was walking down the street and at a street corner when we first met each other. As a dog lover myself, I stopped to say hello. After I learned about Cole's service history, I invited Cole and Kaya to a meeting in my office. At that meeting, I learned something very important—that the Department of Veterans Affairs does not cover the cost of service animals for veterans with post-traumatic stress, which can cost upwards of tens of thousands of dollars.

From the moment I met Kaya, I knew she was special. She was not just a service dog; she was the model of a service dog. She had a gentle nature, kind eyes, and a wagging tail. But I could say that about my two dogs, Mitch and Theo. I could even say that I am proud of the obedience training I have given them. But Kaya is different. She knew all the commands my dogs know, but she also knew how to be there for Cole without even a single command. And like so many other veterans—service dogs are not just taught to sit and stay and fetch; they are

taught to actually see what the veteran is experiencing. They know when to go by that veteran's side just to give them a source of calmness. They actually know how to wake up a veteran who may be in the middle of a nightmare. They know when a veteran or a servicemember who is disabled needs something—they can point to it, and they will retrieve it. These are extraordinary dogs, so you can understand why it may be expensive to get them up to that level.

So few dogs are like Kaya. She was a special one.

Cole and I, when we met, discussed approaches we could use to try to get funding for service dogs in the VA. It is one of the reasons why it culminated in what we call the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. I later introduced that bill in the Senate. The legislation established a pilot program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with PTSD.

In addition to Kaya's unwavering devotion that brought comfort and support—and dogs like her—to countless veterans, she also educated Congress and this country about the role dogs can play in helping veterans who are struggling with the invisible wounds of war.

Because of Kaya's effort—and I guess a little bit from Cole—we were able to pass the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, and it was signed into law in 2021. Now, thanks to Kaya, Cole, and organizations like K9s for Warriors, veterans across the country are beginning to benefit from service dog programs that have a track record of reducing symptoms associated with PTSD.

But I also have to say we have a lot of work to do. The PAWS Act was only the beginning of several steps we need to take to make these incredible animals available to more veterans because for every one who is being served today, there are dozens who are not. The nearly 17 veteran suicides this country experiences each and every day makes clear that the PAWS Act is only the beginning, it is not the end, and this is a step on a very long journey.

We must work to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs is implementing the PAWS Act as we intended by partnering with service dog organizations to connect as many veterans as possible with canine training to improve well-being and help veterans thrive. I have made it a top priority to do everything possible to combat veteran suicide.

This legislation is another tool in the toolbox for our men and women who have served.

The passing of Kaya is a true loss. She was sick, and Cole had to make the appropriate but heartbreaking decision to release her from her misery.

Cole, thank you for sharing Kaya with us.

Kaya, thank you for bringing comfort, hope, and healing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have two separate statements here. The first I would like to put on the record, just over a week ago, a devastating earthquake rocked southern Turkey and parts of Syria. The devastation and loss have been heartbreaking.

I am glad that the Biden administration immediately offered American assistance and our help to rescue and discover the victims and survivors. That is what powerful and confident nations do in times of need.

Turkish people are resilient, and we will help them rebuild from this tragedy.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. President, on February 25, 1 year ago, award-winning Chicago Chef Tony Priolo woke up early to work out on his elliptical machine. He turned on his TV, and he couldn't believe what he was seeing: bombs, gunfire, convoys of armored vehicles. Russia's war on Ukraine had begun.

Chef Priolo thought of a young Ukrainian woman who had worked for a summer in one of his restaurants and wondered whether she and her family were safe. He asked himself: What can I do? And then he had an idea.

He contacted the Illinois Restaurant Association and 30 of his closest chef friends in the area and said: Let's use our talents to feed people and to feed the people of Ukraine who have been forced from their homes by this terrible war.

Less than 3 weeks later, chefs representing 70 restaurants around Chicago dished out meals to a crowd of 2,000 people at an event called Chicago Chefs Cook for Ukraine. They sold out a rather large venue known as Navy Pier in Chicago.

They raised \$650,000 in that one night and another \$200,000 after. They donated all of it to the World Central Kitchen, the nonprofit organization founded by Chef and noted humanitarian Jose Andres. I had a chance to meet Chef Andres just a few weeks before the start of the war in Ukraine.

I love that man. He is always so full of ideas and hope and determination. The chef came to America from Spain when he was 21 years old, with nothing but a set of knives and 50 bucks. He is now an American citizen with an empire of award-winning restaurants.

Through his work with World Central Kitchen, which he founded in 2010, Jose Andres also has earned a reputation as the world's leading "first responder for food."

Wherever disaster strikes, it seems the World Central Kitchen is there to feed hungry and displaced people, usually within 24 hours. For Chef Tony Priolo in Chicago, it wasn't enough, though, simply to raise money for the World Central Kitchen, as noble as that effort is.

After the success of Chicago Cooks for Ukraine, Tony tracked down his former employee on Instagram and asked: Are you OK? She replied: Not

really. My mom and dog and I are hiding in the subway in Ukraine.

So Tony decided he had to go to Ukraine himself personally and help. Two other starter chefs from Chicago, Giuseppe Tentori and Paul Kahan, decided to join him.

When one of Tony's regular customers heard that the chefs were paying for the trip to Poland and Ukraine out of their own pockets, he said: I have 5 million frequent flier miles. I will buy your tickets.

They volunteered for a week last April, cooking from early morning to late at night, feeding hot meals to as many as 30,000 people a day at a Polish refugee camp just six miles from the border.

Helping others was not new to Tony. He is known for his support of charities, including Meals on Wheels Chicago, St. Jude's Hospital, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

But what Tony saw in that refugee camp near the Polish-Ukrainian border broke his heart: an elderly couple who appeared to have left everything they owned behind, now dependent on the kindness of strangers for even a simple glass of water or a meal; terrified women and children who had been forced to flee their homes, carrying only what they could fit into suitcases and shopping bags.

"Often," Tony said, "I had to look away to hide the tears." For his humanitarian work to aid Ukrainians displaced by war and his many other charitable endeavors, Chef Priolo was recently honored by Chicago magazine as a "Chicagoan of the Year," a well-deserved tribute.

Around the same time that Chef Priolo was watching the horrors unfold last year, Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware and I sat in a dark, nearly empty departure lounge in Vilnius, Lithuania early one morning.

We were there to express support for Lithuania, that small NATO member on the front line of democracy, who has a long history of Russian tyranny.

And then while we sat, the unthinkable occurred in modern Europe. News broke that Russian dictator Vladimir Putin had launched a massive military invasion of Ukraine. It was an ill-fated throwback to an era when aggressor nations tried to seize their neighbor's territory by force, all in the blind pursuit of some warped Soviet nostalgia trip.

Putin was willing to sacrifice the lives of thousands of Ukrainians and even Russians, the reputation of his country, and the international order established after the horror of World War II.

Perhaps having listened to too many years of his own country's brainwashing propaganda, Putin also thought Ukraine would fall into his lap in a matter of days or hours. He thought the transatlantic alliance in the community of democracies was a thing of the past and wouldn't dare to respond. Well, he was wrong on every single front.

The Ukrainian people repelled Putin's invasion. They heroically clawed back seized territory. They withstood brutal, deliberate attacks on civilian targets and critical infrastructure—war crimes by any standard of human conduct.

They are united in their resistance to Russia and their desire to be free to choose their own path in the future. The United States and its allies around the world have stood together in support of Ukraine and against Russia, and NATO is on the cusp of adding two new formidable members—Finland and Sweden.

President Biden deserves great praise for leading this global effort, and praise too to the American people for recognizing a courageous effort against tyranny and standing on the right side of history.

But we should not lose sight of the crimes committed by Putin in the war, crimes for which he and his enablers must and will be held accountable. Entire villages have been destroyed. From Bucha to Izyum to Kherson, there is evidence of horrific mass killing, torture, and sexual violence against innocent people.

Dead and mutilated bodies litter the street. Babies have been found in mass graves. Thousands have been abducted. These are the acts of a war criminal.

That is why Congress recently strengthened our Nation's tools for cooperation with the International Criminal Court when it comes to Ukraine and why we recently enacted a bill I introduced entitled Justice for Victims of War Crimes. And it is why Congress provided \$45 billion in aid to Ukraine in the most recent spending bill, a measure, thank goodness, with broad bipartisan support.

Just like the Nuremberg trials after World War II, and, more recently, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the world will hold Putin and the Russians accountable for unleashing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

As President Biden said in his State of the Union Address, the fight against tyranny in Ukraine is "a test for the ages. A test for America. [And] a test for the world." We cannot fail.

I agree with the President. We must continue to stand loyally by Ukraine.

I will close with a memory I will never forget. It was the year 2014—9 years ago. I was walking through Kyiv's Maidan Square with my friend, the late Senator John McCain. It was a trip we made to the area, and he was a celebrity. John McCain stood by their side when others wouldn't, and they loved him for it.

And we started to walk into Maidan Square together. All around us were makeshift shrines dedicated to the victims killed during peaceful protests simply asking for the opportunity to have a democracy. It was evident then and reflective of what we have seen during the last year in Ukraine, the unshakable determination of the

Ukrainian people to be free, to be able to democratically choose their own future, just as we do in the United States.

Senator McCain understood it, and I stood by his side. It is long overdue that President Putin understands it as well. Until then, we will stand together with the Ukrainian people in that journey toward democracy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO R.C. ROBERTS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, thank you for that enthusiastic introduction.

I am here. Once again, it is the end of the week. At least in the Senate, it is the end of the week, not for the rest of America. But when we end up here with our work, on Thursday afternoon, I usually try and do a story about what I refer to as "The Alaskan of the Week."

Hopefully, everybody can see this photo. We have included our Alaskans of the Week's pictures here. This is a really good one, if you are watching anywhere in Alaska, I hope, and across America.

Now, the reporters usually like this speech because it signals the end of their week. Normally, we have a crowd of press in the Gallery, maybe not so much today.

But it is about somebody who has done something good for their community or the State or maybe for their country. This Alaskan of the Week is actually someone who did something for the world—the world. Saved the world. Stay tuned. No exaggeration.

Now, I always like to give an update on what is happening back home. We are getting covered in snow—tons and tons of snow. The Sun is starting to come back. It is a very cold and snowy winter. The Iditarod is right around the corner—the last great race. Senator MURKOWSKI and I will talk about that soon. It is a beautiful time of year if you love the outdoors—skiing, snow-machining.

So come visit Alaska. That is what I always do—make the pitch.

And people don't know this, but Alaska is also an incredibly diverse State. In fact, Anchorage, my hometown, the State's largest city, is home to the country's three most diverse census tracks—racially, in terms of nationalities. By the way, the fourth most diverse is Queens, NY. So more diverse than Queens, NY, in terms of race, ethnicities, and nationalities. We are very proud of our diversity. More than 100 languages are spoken in our schools—Native languages, other languages, foreign languages. We are diverse.

We are very patriotic. In fact, Alaska is home to more veterans per capita than any State in the country. White, Black, Asian American, Alaska Native, all different races make up that key part of Alaska's heritage, military service.